

Attorney Docket No.: 10508.204-US

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: De Maria et al.

Confirmation No: 9304

Serial No.: 10/574,554

Group Art Unit: 3617

Filed: April 3, 2006

Examiner: TBA

For: Protease Variants

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS) UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants submit herewith references which may be material to the patentability of this application and with respect to which there may be a duty to disclose. While the references may be material under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that the references are prior art. The filing of this IDS shall not be construed as a representation that no other material references than those listed exist or that a search has been conducted.

The references are listed in Form PTO/SB/08A, which is in accordance with the requirements of M.P.E.P. 609. A copy of the references is enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that these references be considered by the USPTO in its examination of the above-identified application and be made of record therein.

This IDS is being filed **within** three months of the filing date of a national application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or **before** the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or **before** the mailing date of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination. Therefore, no fee is due.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 24, 2007

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